AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace page 28, paragraph 1, with:

A1

The present invention also provides, in another embodiment, genes encoding MCIP1 and MCIP2. Genes for human MCIP1 (SEQ ID NO:1), MCIP2 (SEQ ID NO:3) and MCIP3 (SEQ ID:5 and 17) have been identified. Also provided are MCIP1 and MCIP2 from mouse (SEQ ID NOS:7 and 9). The present invention is not limited in scope to these genes, however, as one of ordinary skill in the could, using these nucleic acids, readily identify related homologs in various other species (*e.g.*, rat, rabbit, dog, monkey, gibbon, human, chimp, ape, baboon, cow, pig, horse, sheep, cat and other species).

Replace page 29, paragraph 2, with:

A2

As used in this application, the term "a nucleic acid encoding a MCIP" refers to a nucleic acid molecule that has been isolated free of total cellular nucleic acid. In preferred embodiments, the invention concerns a nucleic acid sequence essentially as set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 16. The term "as set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 or 16" means that the nucleic acid sequence substantially corresponds to a portion of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9 or 16. The term "functionally equivalent codon" is used herein to refer to codons that encode the same amino acid, such as the six codons for arginine or serine (Table 1, below), and also refers to codons that encode biologically equivalent amino acids, as discussed in the following pages.

Replace page 30, first paragraph, with:

A3

Allowing for the degeneracy of the genetic code, sequences that have at least about 50%, usually at least about 60%, more usually about 70%, most usually about 80%, preferably at least about 90% and most preferably about 95% of nucleotides that are identical to the nucleotides of

SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 16 are contemplated. Sequences that are essentially the same as those set forth in SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 16 also may be functionally defined as sequences that are capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid segment containing the complement of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 16 under standard conditions.

Replace page 83, second paragraph, with:

GST-MCIP1 fusions were expressed from the bacterial expression plasmid pGEX-CS (T.D. Parks, et al. 1994). Luciferase reporter plasmids, Mb-luc and IL-2-luc, were constructed in pGL3 (Promega) by inserting promoter/enhancer regions from genes encoding human myoglobin (Chin *et al.*, 1998) or IL-2 (Clipstone *et al.*, 1992), respectively. In addition, a synthetic enhancer consisting of three copies of a high affinity MEF2 binding sequence from the desmin promoter (Naya *et al.*, 2000) was linked to a minimal promoter (hsp68) and inserted into pGL3 yielding the des-MEF-luc reporter. The β-galactosidase reporter plasmid pCMV-lacZ (J. Grayson, et al. 1998), and expression vectors encoding constitutively active forms of NFAT (Molkentin *et al.*, 1998), calcineurin (CnA*) (Chin *et al.*, 1998, O'Keefe *et al.*, 1992), or calmodulin dependent protein kinase type IV (CaMKIV) (Ho *et al.*, 1996), were previously described. The identity of plasmid constructions was confirmed by restriction mapping and partial DNA sequencing.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

59. (Amended) A method of modulating muscle cell growth comprising:

(a) providing a small molecule modulator of MCIP1 expression; and

(b) administering said modulator to a muscle cell

whereby administration of said modulator results in modulation of muscle cell growth.